

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-53 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 6-9, 15-20, and 27 have been rejected. Claims 2-5, 10-14, 21-26 and 28-53 have been objected to. Claims 54-97 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-2, 10, 14, 21-22, 24-26, 28-33, 43-46, 50-52 have been amended. Reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6-9, 15-16, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Miller et. al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,885,720).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “a first circuit for testing a level of stored digital data in the memory cells” and “a second circuit to test a level of stored digital data in the redundant memory cells.”

As understood *Miller* at best merely discloses a redundant word decoder 122 coupled to a redundant memory array 102. The redundant word decoder 122 provides redundant memory word lines 112 to the redundant memory array 102. In contrast, claim 1 recites “a plurality of redundant memory cells arranged in columns.” The redundant y-driver recited in claim 1 reads contents of redundant memory cells in a column and tests the levels of stored digital data in the redundant memory cells. The redundant word decoder 122 of *Miller* is a word line decoder and not a decoder for a column of redundant memory cells. Further, the y-driver of claim 1 includes a second circuit to test a level of stored digital data in the redundant memory cells. The word line decoder 122 of *Miller* does not have the test redundant memory cells. Lacking the disclosure or suggestion of at least this claim feature, *Miller* cannot render claim 1 unpatentable. Because claims 6-9, 15-20 and 27 depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 1, for similar reasons *Miller* cannot render claims 6-9, 15-20, and 27 unpatentable. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 6-9, 15-20, and 27 are patentable over *Miller*. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant further notes that the NAND 220 and 222 of *Miller* relates to addresses and is not a NAND gate to generate an input data pattern indicator in response to input data applied thereto as recited in claim 6.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lee et. al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,396).

Claim 1 has been amended as noted above.

As understood *Lee* at best merely discloses a memory with redundant rows by individual wordline shown elements 34 in Figure 1. The redundancy of *Lee* is row redundancy, and is not a “plurality of redundant memory cells arranged in columns” and a redundant y-driver . . . to read contents of said redundant memory cells in said column. . . .” as recited in claim 1. Lacking the disclosure or suggestion of at least this claim feature, *Lee* cannot render claim 1 unpatentable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 15, 17-20 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tran et. al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,620).

Claim 1 has been amended as described above.

As understood *Tran* at best merely discloses redundant columns shown in Figure 2a. However, the system of *Tran* does not include a first y-driver that includes a first circuit for testing a level of storage digital data in the memory cells or a redundant y-driver that includes a second circuit to test the level of stored digital data in the redundant memory cells as recited claim 1. Lacking at least this claim feature, *Tran* cannot render claim 1 unpatentable. Because claims 15, 17-20, and 27 dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1, for similar reasons *Tran* cannot render claims 15, 17-20, and 27 unpatentable. Therefore, this is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 15, 17-20, and 27 are patentable under the references of record. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Form PTOL-326 indicates that claims 2-15, 10-14, 21-26 and 28-53 have been objected to, but the Office Action does not describe an objection. On April 25, 2005, the undersigned had a telephone conversation with the Examiner who indicated that the Office Action should have included an objection that the claims were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected claim but would be allowable for rewritten independent form. In view of this objection, claims 2-15, 10-14, 21-26 and 28-53 have been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of the independent base claim, and thus their scope remains unchanged. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in an allowable form, and action to that end is respectfully requested.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit in the overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1896 referencing Attorney Docket No. 2102397-991400.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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